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*Miss. Library Association*

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# LIBRARY NEWS

## Mississippi State Library Commission

Chapter 131, Code 1930

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#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Libraries and the War and Winning the Peace.....	3
II. Liquidation of the State Library Extension Project.....	6
III. New Books Added Recently.....	9
IV. Books Recommended by the Council on Books in Wartime.....	11
V. Twenty-five Good Novels of 1942.....	13

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#### TIMELY QUESTIONS THAT EACH LIBRARIAN SHOULD CONSIDER

1. Have you paid your MLA dues? If not, send \$1.00 individual dues, \$2.50 institutional, to Miss Charlotte Capers, Acting Director, Department of Archives and History.
2. Do you realize that Mississippi does not have a chapter in the American Library Association because fifty librarians have not paid both ALA and MLA dues? Please read the ALA Constitution in the handbook. If you do not have it, write for a copy.

## LIBRARIES AND THE WAR AND WINNING THE PEACE

The Executive board of ALA believing that libraries and librarians can make a substantial contribution to the enlightenment of the American people about war and post-war problems and issues is sponsoring a series of institutes to help librarians and trustees to inform themselves about important issues and to assist them in evaluating books and other materials. The series was initiated by a national institute which was held in Chicago, January 29th and 30th. This institute was to serve as a demonstration for others in the series. The institute leader was Drummond Jones, Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C. The topics discussed were: "Ideas are weapons", "What citizens must know and do to help win the war", "Preparing for the post-war period", and "What librarians can do".

It was necessary to limit attendance at the national institute because of travel, small group for discussion, and to assure fair geographical representation, the President of the American Library Association appointed a state co-ordinator for each state and a regional committee. The national institute was to be followed by about twenty regional institutes, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas comprising one regional group. John Hall Jacobs, New Orleans Public Library, was appointed chairman of this region. The regional institute was open to anyone who wished to attend. This institute was held in New Orleans, April 6th and 7th. Mrs. C. C. Clark, president of Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers; Clayton Rand, Mississippi editor and writer; and Miss Pearl Sneed, executive secretary, State Library Commission, participated in the panel discussions. Other Mississippi representatives were: Dr. William D. McCain, President, Mississippi Library Association, Mrs. Shirley Stephenson, Miss Bethany Swearingen, Mrs. Ada Foote Corban, Mrs. Lawrence Briscoe, Miss Shirley Chichester of Jackson, Mrs. Gertrude Rowzee, Hinds Junior College, Mrs. Frank Oswalt, Wesson Junior College, Miss Barbara Chalafant, Yazoo High School, Miss Sue Coltharp, Vicksburg High School, and Miss Louise Crawford, Bay St. Louis.

It has not been the purpose of the institutes to discuss the techniques of libraries, but service. The topic of the regional institute: "War and peace." The first day of the institute was devoted to the subjects: "Why are we fighting", and "Post-war planning". Some of the basic problems which the American people face as brought out by the panel are: The many great changes that are taking place, the relationship of minorities, the basic functions of our economic system, attitudes of people toward themselves, their lives, and American democracy. The citizen must understand the war affects him vitally. Each individual citizen must recognize his responsibility for his share of public opinion which will ultimately determine foreign policy. An understanding of the machinery of government within the country as well as machinery of government between countries is essential.

The topics for the second day were: "Libraries in the war" and "Libraries and the future". What can libraries do to help the citizen in understanding the basic problems? What is the librarian's job? The national institute as well as the regional institute stressed the importance of group action. The librarian must make it his job to know the OPA leaders, OCD leaders, and to participate in group discussions and forums. **Rationing**, which is administered by OPA officials, will affect the work of the County Farm Agent, Home Demonstration Agent, and the home-maker. **Nutrition and care of children** are topics of interest not only to county health officials, but also to Parent Teacher groups, individuals, and other civic groups. OCD leaders who are charged with the responsibility of promoting Victory Gardens, and civilian protection in all its phases are working in close co-operation with health officials and public welfare groups, and civic organizations. The librarian must work as an individual with these groups.

It is the librarian's responsibility to analyze the community to discover those interested in post-war planning, to provide material which will help the private mind make up its conclusion, to co-operate with educators by providing bibliographies and supplementing the small school library collections. Librarians must be one of the best informed groups in the community on all problems affecting the community and its relationship to the war.

Book promotion will not only mean better informed citizens, but also better informed librarians. The library should provide material on the background of the war, and the America we defend. "Mobilizing our brain power", issued by the American Library Association is an excellent list. The Fern Long Lists which have appeared in the ALA Bulletin are invaluable. Some of the social basic problems for post-war planning are trade, international relationship, health, social security, tariff, education, the American farmer and his relationship to world trade. Each librarian should keep in close touch with all organized study groups. Material should be provided on the countries which are our allies as well as our enemies.

"Libraries and the future" has a twofold meaning. It not only means the part libraries can play in preparing our country to participate in the organization of the world peace, but what will be the future of libraries as an institution in a post-war world.

Mississippi librarians must be vitally concerned about both problems. Efforts will be made to hold at least three institutes in this State. The success of these institutes will depend upon each librarian, trustee, and citizen. Do we believe that ideas are weapons? Do we think that education plays a vital role in the proper functioning of a democracy? What do we think of the statement made by James Wadsworth in a letter dated July 23, 1833—"How are your youth to acquire knowledge without books? They now do not read books when young, and have no distinct ideas when in advanced life, and yet you call on them to decide on treaties and constitutional questions."

Do we in a democracy mean the education of the few or the masses? If we mean the education of the masses, what institution must be prepared to provide the means of education? The common school is only a preparatory step for subsequent education. The secondary and collegiate institutions are not reaching the masses. Many adult groups are engaged in educational activities. It is the librarian's duty to know these groups and to provide the material related to their interests. The use of a central collection by all groups will show that for the most part all groups are working toward the same goal—"The Building of a Better Democratic Nation".

If the public library is to take its place as an educational agency in a democracy, there must be a better organized and administered library system and a more democratic policy of book selection. To have an efficient library means a well-trained staff. This does not mean that each member of the staff must be a graduate librarian, but it does mean that each member of the staff—whether it be the typist, filing clerk, bookmobile driver, or the head librarian—must be efficient in the job. An efficient library is a well-supported library. In the report made by the committee on post-war planning of the American Library Association to the National Resources Planning Board, it is stated that the minimum appropriation for the small public library should not be less than \$6,000. It is the layman's responsibility to interpret the library to the governing bodies. But until librarians assume an aggressive role, have firm conviction of the value of a library in a democracy, are alert to the needs of the community, have the ability to adapt the book collection to meet these needs, little progress will be made in the improvement of the present library program and also in extending the service to all the people.

The regional conference held in New Orleans April 6 and 7 placed itself on record in favor of:

1. Personal reading and staff study in order that this broader knowledge may be translated into community study and activity;
2. The assumption by libraries of a positive leadership in the selection of books and in community activities;
3. A restudy of all community groups and forces in order that library service on war or post-war problems may be more universal, more prompt and more effective;
4. Co-operation between all thinking groups of a community in asserting the importance of reading in the winning of an early, and intelligent and a permanent peace. Specifically, it is urged that for public libraries there should be encouragement of public forums or other discussion groups and vocational guidance clinics. A recognition of the urgent need of the maintenance of and increase in the support to library service;
5. Placing the weight of library influence behind national and governmental recognition of the essential importance of reading matter

in a national crisis in order that the most adequate allowance possible of paper and manpower be available for the production of books as weapons of war and for peace.

6. A more general recognition of the importance of the public library as an integral part of our educational system and the large place it has in helping to win the war and the peace.

Bethany Swearingen  
Constance Mitchell  
Robert J. Usher, Chairman

New Orleans, Louisiana  
April 7, 1943

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#### LIQUIDATION OF THE STATE LIBRARY EXTENSION PROJECT

The State Library Extension Project, which has been sponsored by the State Library Commission since 1935, was closed in all counties on March 15, 1943. The State office continued to operate until April 1, 1943. It is impossible to evaluate the library program at this time. However, without any consideration of the cost a brief summary should be given of the progress made in extending library service to areas without any reading material other than school libraries, newspapers, magazines, and rental libraries prior to the inauguration of the State-wide Library Project financed by the Work Projects Administration.

Twelve counties have libraries organized under the State law providing for the establishment of a regional, county, or city library. These counties are: Alcorn, Attala, DeSoto, Grenada, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lee, Lowndes, Noxubee, Sunflower, and Union. The total amount that will be available from public funds for the support of these libraries is \$25,305, average \$2,108. These appropriations range from \$780.00 in Noxubee to \$5,000 in Hinds. Twenty-two persons are now employed in these counties. Alcorn, Grenada, Harrison, and Hinds have employed trained librarians as head of the county libraries. Lee and Union have funds available to employ a trained librarian. Each of these counties are making plans to secure increased appropriations at the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1, 1943.

Twenty-four other counties have made some plan for the continuation of some type of library service. The reports submitted from these counties indicate much genuine interest on the part of local groups. In many counties, civic clubs have assumed the responsibility for the payment of a small salary to keep the library open. In other counties the governing boards of the county and the city have agreed to make funds available for books and to pay a small salary to the librarian. In many cases the library committees indicate that efforts will be made to organize the library under the State law and to secure increased appropriations. The total amount of funds that will be available, as shown by reports, for the rest of the fiscal year is \$12,249.00.

In three counties plans have been made to circulate the books through the office of the county superintendent of education. No funds have been provided to keep the collection up to date. Five counties reported that no plans had been made to continue the library service; four counties did not make any report as to the status of the library in the future. Thirteen of the city libraries which have employed WPA workers to carry on the county work have made provision to continue some type of county work. A total of twenty-five counties now have permanent library service organized either as a county library or by contract with a city library as compared to four in 1935.

The State Library Commission will have supervision of the book collection bought with federal funds available through the Work Projects Administration. There were approximately 23,000 volumes. Of these 14,000 volumes have been deposited as indefinite loans, 7,000 volumes have been loaned to counties for a period of six to twelve months, 2,000 volumes have been added to the State Library Commission collection. As a part of the plan for liquidation of the WPA Library Project each county was asked to submit a statement showing the legal status of the county library, appropriation, staff, housing facilities, plan for distribution, together with the plan for future growth and development. Using these statements and plans as a basis, indefinite loans were made to Alcorn, Attala, DeSoto, Grenada, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Lee, Sunflower, and Union. These loans range from 600 volumes to approximately 2,100 volumes, average—1,400 volumes.

A number of state activities for library development which have been carried on with federal funds available through the Work Projects Administration cannot be continued with the present state appropriation for library service. Supervision by experienced and trained librarians which was a very vital part of the program will be very limited. The secretary of the State Library Commission will make an effort to visit each library annually. The secretary will also be available upon request for advice and help in administration, organization, and in working out plans for future growth or post-war standards for public libraries. The Commission will continue to publish quarterly "Library News". Advice on book selection will be continued through the quarterly publication "Books". Statistics will be compiled annually showing growth and development of libraries; up-to-date records will be kept of location and number of librarians employed; also, students who are enrolled in library school. The Commission also works continuously upon plans for future growth and development of library service in the State.

Another phase of the state service that will be greatly curtailed will be the number and type of books available for county service. With the limited state funds for books, the policy of the Commission is to buy only subject material to answer special requests. An effort is made to keep this information up to date and to cover a broad scope. Books and pamphlets are available on such subjects as religion, philosophy, social and economic conditions, child care, nutrition, gardening, farming, fine arts, literature, drama, history, war problems and post-war plans,

travel, and biography. Subject requests will be given very prompt attention.

With the present appropriation, housing facilities, and staff it will be impossible to send out collections of books for short loans as has been done for the past seven years. However, efforts will be made to provide reading material through inter-library loans with the counties and direct loans from the Commission. Funds are not available to keep these collections up to date and to keep the books in a fresh and attractive condition.

Increased support for the State Library Commission and State aid must be available if the State is to provide adequate and effective State-wide library service.

### **NEW BOOKS ADDED RECENTLY**

Books bought by the Home Economics Association and loaned to the Commission:

Brindze, Ruth. STRETCHING YOUR DOLLAR IN WARTIME.

Cooper, Lenna Frances. NUTRITION IN HEALTH AND DISEASE.

Davis, Adele. VITALITY THROUGH PLANNED NUTRITION.

Robertson, Helen. WHAT DO WE EAT NOW?

Wirtschafter, Zalton Tillson. MINERALS IN NUTRITION.

Other titles added recently:

Agar, Herbert. A TIME FOR GREATNESS.

Angell, Norman. LET THE PEOPLE KNOW.

Baird, Craig. REPRESENTATIVE AMERICAN SPEECHES: 1941-1942.

Baruch, Mrs. Dorothy (Walter). YOU, YOUR CHILDREN, AND WAR.

Beveridge, Sir William. SOCIAL INSURANCES AND ALLIED SERVICES.

Bingham, Alfred Mitchell. THE TECHNIQUES OF DEMOCRACY.

Brown, Cecil. SUEZ TO SINGAPORE.

Burman, Ben Lucien. MIRACLE ON THE CONGO.

Byas, Hugh. GOVERNMENT BY ASSASSINATION.

Carse, Robert. THERE GO THE SHIPS.

Childs, Marquis William. THIS IS YOUR WAR.

Condiffe, John Bell. AGENDA FOR A POSTWAR WORLD.

Hager, Mrs. Alice (Rogers). FRONTIER BY AIR (BRAZIL TAKES THE SKY ROAD).

Hamilton, Thomas J. APPEASEMENT'S CHILD, THE FRANCO REGIME IN SPAIN.

Hanson, Earl Parker. CHILE, LAND OF PROGRESS.

Hawthorne, Kenneth Charles. HOW TO GET AHEAD IN A DEFENSE PLANT.

Hoover, Herbert. THE PROBLEMS OF LASTING PEACE.

Horn, Florence. ORPHANS OF THE PACIFIC: THE PHILIPPINES.

Howard, John Tooker. THIS MODERN MUSIC.

De Roussy de Sales, Raoul Jean Jacques. MAKING OF TOMORROW.

Freeman, Douglas Southall. LEE'S LIEUTENANTS; A STUDY IN COMMAND.

French, Thomas Ewing. A MANUAL OF ENGINEERING DRAWING FOR STUDENTS AND DRAFTSMAN.

Gaer, Joseph. CONSUMERS ALL; THE PROBLEM OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

Grew, Joseph Clark. REPORT FROM TOKYO.

Johnsen, Julia Emily. THE CLOSED SHOP.  
Johnsen, Julia Emily. PERMANENT PRICE CONTROL POLICY.  
Johnsen, Julia Emily. PLANS FOR A POST-WAR WORLD.  
Judson, Lyman Spicer, ed. THE STUDENT CONGRESS MOVEMENT.  
Kantor, MacKinlay. HAPPY LAND.  
Matlin, David R. GROWING PLANTS WITHOUT SOIL.  
Mears, Helen. YEAR OF THE WILD BOAR.  
Moore, Virginia. VIRGINIA IS A STATE OF MIND.  
Nevins, Allan. AMERICA, THE STORY OF A FREE PEOPLE.  
Nichols, Egbert Ray. A FEDERAL SALES TAX.  
Oliver, Simeon. SON OF THE SMOKY SEA.  
Parkes, Henry Bamford. THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR.  
Peffer, Nathaniel. BASIS FOR PEACE IN THE FAR EAST.  
Potter, Jean Clark. ALASKA UNDER ARMS.  
Price, Willard de Mille. JAPAN RIDES THE TIGER.  
Reck, Franklin Mering. RADIO FROM START TO FINISH.  
Reston, James Barrett. PRELUDE TO VICTORY.  
Rue, Eloise, comp. SUBJECT INDEX TO READERS.  
Rush, Benjamin. ROAD TO FULFILLMENT.  
Sandwell, Bernard Keble. CANADIAN PEOPLES.  
Stefansson, Mrs. Evelyn. HERE IS ALASKA.  
Summers, Robert Edward. UNIVERSAL MILITARY SERVICE.  
Summers, Robert Edward. WARTIME CENSORSHIP OF PRESS AND  
RADIO.  
Thomas, Elbert Duncan. THOMAS JEFFERSON, WORLD CITIZEN.  
Van Kirk, Walter William. RELIGION AND THE WORLD OF TO-  
MORROW.  
Wilson, Charles Morrow. CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY: CEN-  
TRAL AMERICA.

How can these books be borrowed? Write to Miss Pearl Snead,  
Secretary, State Library Commission, New Capitol, Jackson, Mississippi  
The cost of service is transportation to and from Jackson. The loan  
period is one month. The loan may be renewed upon request. If there  
is a local library have the librarian borrow the material. If there is no  
local library, write directly to the Commission.

**BOOKS RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL ON BOOKS IN WARTIME**

**INTRODUCING AUSTRALIA**, by C. H. Grattan. Day, 1942. \$3. Study of the people, their way of life and their country.

**AUSTRALIA ADVANCES**, by David Dow. Funk and Wagnalls, 1938. \$2. Social and economic progress of Australia, contrasted with American conditions.

**I HEARD THE ANZACS SINGING**, by Margaret L. Macpherson. Creative Age, 1942. \$2. Personal glimpses of life in Australia and New Zealand.

**AUSTRALIAN FRONTIER**, by Ernestine Hill. Doubleday, Doran, 1942. \$3.50. A picture of the "outback" country, its miners, aborigines, shepherds and pearl-fishers.

**A YANKEE DOCTOR IN PARADISE**, by S. M. Lambert. Little, Brown, 1941. \$3. Experiences fighting disease in the South Sea Islands.

**WESTWARD THE COURSE: THE NEW WORLD OF OCEANIA**, by Paul McGuire. Morrow, 1942. \$3.75. The past, present, and future of the southern Pacific islands and the infiltration of western man and mind into those regions.

**HEADHUNTING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AROUND THE CORAL SEA**, by Caroline Mytinger. Macmillan, 1942. \$3. Intimate picture of life among the Melanisians, whose portraits were painted by the author.

**THE SOUTH SEAS IN THE MODERN WORLD**, by F. M. Keesing. John Day, 1941. \$3.50. An authoritative socio-economic study made for the Institute of Pacific Relations.

**AMERICA LOOKS AHEAD: A PAMPHLET SERIES**. World Peace Foundation. 50c each (paper 25c)

No. 1. Australia and the United States, by Fred Alexander. 1941.

No. 6. The Netherlands Indies and the United States, by Rupert Emerson. 1942.

Brief studies of vital regions and their significance to us.

**THE WAR IN MAPS**, by Brown and Herlin. Oxford, 1941. \$1.50. Recommended by the Council for visual reference in connection with all books on the theaters of war.

**THE AIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST GERMANY**, by Allan A. Michie (Holt, \$2).

**APPEASEMENT'S CHILD**, by Thomas J. Hamiltin (Knopf, \$3).

**DYNAMITE CARGO**, by Fred Herman (Vanguard Press, \$2).

**THE ENGLISH PEOPLE**, by D. W. Brogan (Knopf, \$3).

**I SERVED ON BATAAN**, by Lt. Juanita Redmond (Lippincott, \$1.75).

LET THE PEOPLE KNOW, by Norman Angell (Viking Press, \$2.50).

MIRACLE IN HELLAS, by Betty Wason (Macmillan, May 4, \$3).

MR. WINKLE GOES TO WAR, by Theodore Pratt (Duell, Sloan and Pearce, \$2).

ONE WORLD, by Wendell Wilkie (Simon & Schuster, April 19, \$2; paper-bound, \$1).

RETREAT WITH STILWELL, by Jack Belden (Knopf, \$3).

ROUND TRIP TO RUSSIA, by Walter Graebner (Lippincott, \$3).

THEY CALL IT PACIFIC, by Clark Lee (Viking Press, \$3).

THIS IS CONGRESS, by Roland Young (Knopf, \$2.75).

A TIME FOR GREATNESS, by Herbert Agar (Little, Brown, \$2.50).

WE CANNOT ESCAPE HISTORY, by John T. Whitaker (Macmillan, \$2.75).

**TWENTY-FIVE GOOD NOVELS OF 1942\***

- Annett, R. R. **ESPECIALLY BABE.** Appleton, \$2.
- Briggs, W. H. **DAKOTA IN THE MORNING.** Farrar, \$2.50.
- Cannon, LeGrand. **LOOK TO THE MOUNTAIN.** Holt, \$2.75.
- Clements, E. H. **PERHAPS A LITTLE DANGER.** Dutton, \$2.50.
- Collins, Norman. **THE QUIET LADY.** Harper, \$2.50.
- Corle, Edwin. **COARSE GOLD.** Dutton, \$2.50.
- Cozzens, J. G. **THE JUST AND THE UNJUST.** Harcourt, \$2.50.
- Daly, Maureen. **SEVENTEENTH SUMMER.** Dodd, \$2.50.
- Davenport, Marcia. **THE VALLEY OF DECISION.** Scribner, \$3.
- Duffus, R. L. **VICTORY ON WEST HILL.** Macmillan, \$2.50.
- Edmonds, W. D. **YOUNG AMES.** Little, \$2.50.
- Horgan, Paul. **THE COMMON HEART.** Harper, \$2.50.
- Jordan, Mildred. **APPLE IN THE ATTIC.** Knopf, \$2.
- Laverty, Moira. **NEVER NO MORE.** Longmans, \$2.50.
- Medearis, Mary. **BIG DOC'S GIRL.** Lippincott, \$2.
- Parmenter, Christine W. **A GOLDEN AGE.** Crowell, \$2.50.
- Runbeck, Margaret L. **OUR MISS BOO.** Appleton, \$2.
- Shute, Nevil. **PIED PIPER.** Morrow, \$2.50.
- Steedman, Marguerite. **BUT YOU'LL BE BACK.** Houghton, \$2.50.
- Steinbeck, John. **THE MOON IS DOWN.** Viking, \$2.
- Terrell, J. U. **PLUME ROUGE.** Viking, \$2.75.
- Turnbull, Agnes. **THE DAY MUST DAWN.** Macmillan, \$2.75.
- Suckow, Ruth. **NEW HOPE.** Farrar, \$2.50.
- Van Doren, Dorothy. **DACEY HAMILTON.** Harper, \$2.50.
- Yennie, J. T. **HOUSE FOR THE SPARROW.** Reynal, \$2.50.

\*Wisconsin Library Bulletin, March, 1943.